

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 16, with the following re-written paragraph:

-- Additional reference is made to Fig. 2, which depicts a more involved variation of valve prior art. It is also known to install in a single stuffing box **12** a second set of packing **30**, which is separated from a first set of packing **10** by a lantern ring **31**. Proximate and distal packing rings **21**, **21'** of suitable durable composition may be provided. Both sets of packing **10**, **30** are compressed simultaneously by tightening a common array of packing bolts **18**. Accordingly, the two sets of packing **10**, **30** within a single stuffing box or packing chamber **12** provide some redundant protection against leakage, between the valve body **14** and the valve stem **16**, from the valve's zone of elevated operating pressure **20**. Notably, the primary packings **10**, **30** can only be compressed simultaneously ~~be~~ by the operation of the packing bolt(s) **18**; individualized or custom compression of only one set of packing **10** or **30** is not possible. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 16, with the following re-written paragraph:

-- A number of efforts have been made to ~~proved~~ provide leak-resistant valves. Examples of these efforts are provided in the following United States Patents: U.S. Patent No. 6,056,005 to Piotrowski, et al.; U.S. Patent No. 5,203,370 to Block, et al.; U.S. Patent No. 5,865,441 to Orlowski; U.S. Patent No. 5,476,117 to Pakula; U.S. Patent No. 5,178,363 to Icenhower, et al.; U.S. Patent No. 5,170,991 to Heil; U.S. Patent No. 5,129,624 to Icenhower, et al.; U.S. Patent No. 4,901,751 to Story, et al.; U.S. Patent No. 4,570,942 to Diehl, et al.; U.S. Patent No. 5,979,491 to Gonsior; and U.S. Patent No. 4,017,214 to Smith. Known devices, however, may be compromised by various drawbacks. For example, most focus exclusively on

preventing any leakage at all from a single primary stuffing box or packing chamber. This often results in the need for high compression on the packings, which can be counter productive especially in high-use valves. Many devices compress simultaneously all the packings in the primary packing chamber, unnecessarily subjecting all packings -- which are intended to retain fluid against the system operating pressure -- to higher rates of wear. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 20, with the following re-written paragraph:

-- In the invention, the primary packing, within the primary stuffing box or packing chamber, is accomplished generally in accordance with the known art. In Fig. 3, the The packing bolts **18** and associated nuts **29** compress a stacked series of Belleville washers **28, 28'** to drive the primary flange **40** (element 24 in Fig. 2) and the packing pusher **26** in a downward direction to maintain pressure upon the primary packing **10, 30** (as seen in Fig. 2). It is preferable, but not critical, to apply the Belleville washer "live-loading" on the primary packing bolts **18**. The primary packing elements **10, 30** seal against process pressure (which may be in excess of several hundred pounds per square inch gauge (psig) on up. If only the primary packing is present, then the driving force for leakage at the valve stem **16** is the process pressure, minus atmospheric pressure, plus the resistance to leakage of the elements of the primary packing **10, 30**. Known valve primary packing designs provide enough security against leaks such that a VOC (volatile organic compounds) leakage would be considered safe from combustion/explosion, because the VOCs rapidly dissipate in the surrounding air. But from an environmental standpoint, currently VOC emissions exceeding 10,000 ppm from a valve are unacceptable and repairs are required to reduce the VOC emissions to below 10,000 ppm. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 4, with the following re-written paragraph:

-- The inventive primary packing gland flange **40**, which is further described herein, is connected to the actuator mounting flange **52** by the primary packing bolt nuts **29** generally as known in the art. The primary packing gland flange Belleville washers **28** are disposed intermediate to the nuts **29** and the flange **40**, also as previously described. The nuts **29** and washers **28** on the primary bolts **18** permit the primary packing gland flange 40 to compress ~~compression of the primary packing within the primary packing chamber of the existing~~ valve **50**, below the actuator mounting flange **50**, to be adjusted according to convention. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 26, with the following re-written paragraph:

-- The secondary ~~packing~~ packing flange **38** is shown in detail in Figs. 5A and 5B. The secondary flange **38** features a pusher **61** or other projection (preferably integral with the flange **38**), which bears on the secondary packing **36** to compresses the secondary packing within the second packing chamber **41** (which is part of the primary packing gland follower) when the packing bolts **45** are tightened. Combined reference to Figs. 3, 5A, and 5B illustrate that secondary packing bolts **44** are insertable through the bolt holes **39** in the secondary flange **38**. - -

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 4, with the following re-written paragraph (note the deletion of a period at the end of the paragraph):

-- Reference is made to Figs. 6A and 6B, which provide enlarged side and sectional views of the secondary packing gland **38** according to the invention, in place with the inventive

primary packing flange **40**. Tightening of the secondary packing ~~bolts **44**~~ bolts **45** provides the radial pressure for sealing the stem **16** against any leakage past the primary packing. The resulting radial pressure of the secondary packing **36** against the stem **16** furnishes the desired seal, providing the radial pressure on the stem **16** exceeds the pressure of the fluid in the annulus **41**. Secondary packing nuts **45** are typically hand-tightened to extend the life of the secondary packing **36**, and therefore, double nuts may be used to secure the secondary packing loading pressure. However, an advantage of the invention is that since the pressure in the secondary compartment or annulus **42** is relatively low, thereby significantly reducing the necessary packing compression. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 9, with the following re-written paragraph:

-- In the invention, removal of the entire secondary packing assembly (including flanges **38**, **40** and packing **36**), by detaching the primary packing nuts ~~bolts~~ **29** from the primary packing bolts **18**, permits access to the primary packings (**10**, **30** in Fig. 2) without wholly disturbing the secondary packing **36**. The two packings, primary and secondary, thus may be independently managed, compressed, or replaced, since the two means for adjustably connecting (i.e., the two respective sets of packing bolts **18**, **44** with accompanying spring washers **29**, **46** and nuts **29**, **45** the flanges **40** and **38**) to their respective foundations are can be manipulated to cause axial movement of the secondary flange **38** without shifting the primary packing flange **40**. --